



# 4K CONNECT

WSD 4K Newsletter

Mark your calendars  
Curriculum Corner  
Friendly Reminders  
4K Spotlight -  
EC & 4K Staff  
The Rules Rap  
Nursery Rhymes

**Kara Rakowski**, 4K Principal [krakowsk@wausauschools.org](mailto:krakowsk@wausauschools.org)

**Program office:** 714.261.0265

**First Student:** 715.842.2268

4K Administrative Assistant: **Jess Napiwocki** [jnapiwoc@wausauschools.org](mailto:jnapiwoc@wausauschools.org)

4K Administrative Assistant: **Kellie Messman** [kmessman@wausauschools.org](mailto:kmessman@wausauschools.org)

**WSD 4K and Early Childhood Program Website:** [http://www.wausauschools.org/schools\\_facilities/4\\_k\\_programming](http://www.wausauschools.org/schools_facilities/4_k_programming)

**Link to WSD E-Flyers** <http://www.wausauschools.org/e-flyers> Click on the E-flyers tab to see a listing of all current school activities flyers.

**Link to District Handbook:** [http://wausauschools.org/parents/parent\\_student\\_handbook/english](http://wausauschools.org/parents/parent_student_handbook/english)

## PRINCIPAL'S PIECE....

Dear Families:

On behalf of the staff at our 4K Academies & community sites, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2021-22 school year! We are excited to partner with you in the education of your child. Please be sure to check SeeSaw daily for important communication from your child's teacher.

And look for this newsletter every other week in your email. You will find some or all these features:

- Principal's Piece: Programming highlights from Kara Rakowski, the WSD 4K Principal
- Mark your calendars: Upcoming calendar events for all 4K students and families
- "I Can": "I can" statements (goals) align with the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards and the Wausau School District literacy, language, and social skills learning targets. Teachers use "I can" statements to provide a clear focus and purpose to a lesson for students written in child-friendly language. All District 4K teachers use the same learning goals so that all children are guaranteed the same curriculum and checks for student understanding.
- Targeted vocabulary: These words are intentionally selected and taught to build student understanding for important foundational skills.
- For your information (FYI): additional details on events, activities, and curriculum.
- Back page bonus: Once a month we will give you the nursery rhymes being taught in the classrooms. Please recite these nursery rhymes with your child.
- Tucker's 4K spotlight: We will feature a different classroom throughout the year and give you an inside look at what students are learning at school.

We are looking forward to a great year of learning, achievement, and success for all students. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, myself, or your site principal with any questions or concerns you might have. Thank you in advance for being an active participant in your child's education. Together we will prepare them for the future!

Kara Rakowski, Wausau School District 4K Principal

# MARK YOUR CALENDERS

## For 4K Students at all sites

Tucker Turtle Night: September 28th @ Thomas Jefferson  
No School: October 27th - 29th - Professional Learning  
for teachers



## FYI

When families and schools work together we provide the best education possible for our children!

### *Parents at School Day*

All parents/guardians (or another family member) are invited into classrooms each month. During the Parents at School event, your child's teacher will present a short lesson that you will observe. You will then get to play and work with your child one on one with an activity planned by the teacher. The last 20 minutes may be spent playing on the playground. Your child's teacher will not be available to speak specifically about your child at this time.

Conferences will be arranged for all parents during the month of October and November. Parents at school is a special time for students and their parents; for this reason, please make other arrangements for younger siblings.

## Tucker Turtle Night

Tucker Turtle Night is outside at Thomas Jefferson Elementary school on Tuesday, September 28th anytime between 6 and 7:30 pm (open house style). There will be games, crafts, snacks, music, book fair and more! (Rain date 9/30)

# CURRICULUM CORNER

Our literacy curriculum, Happily Ever After, focuses on folktales and nursery rhymes because of the engaging plots and rich vocabulary. Our first unit will begin in two weeks with Little Red Riding Hood. Integration of art, music, literacy, motor, math, science, dramatic play, social skills, and language are incorporated.

## TARGETED VOCABULARY

The students are learning about **choices** and **have-to-dos**. This is great vocabulary to use at home.

## 'I CAN'

"I can tell my teacher if someone is following the rules."

## FYI

Social Emotional Foundations of Early Learning:

Who is Tucker Turtle?

The Turtle Technique is a method of teaching young children strategies for coping with anger, disappointment, and frustration. Tucker is our "mascot" for 4K as he helps teach about being a good friend, identifying our feelings, controlling strong feelings/anger, and finding solutions to problems. Join us at our Parents at School and Tucker Turtle Night to learn more about Tucker!



# TUCKER'S FRIENDLY REMINDERS



**Reminder...** Breakfast or lunch is not served to 4K students at the 4K academies (Hawthorn, Jefferson, Jones, Riverview). Your child does receive a snack and milk/water while at school.

Please remember to call your 4K office if your child is going to be absent from school due to illness or another reason. When you call in, please give the reason for the absence. Please also call First Student at 715.842.2268 to let them know your child will not be riding the bus that day.

**G.D Jones - 715.261.0265 Jess Napiwocki**  
**Hawthorn - 715.261.0055 Kellie Messman**  
**Jefferson - 715.261.0185 Amber Channel**  
**Riverview - 715.261.0040 Becky Olson**

AM classes begin at 8:25 A.M., dismissal at 11:00 A.M.  
PM classes begin at 11:40 A.m., dismissal at 2:15 P.M.



## *Update Your Information*

It is very important that we have accurate contact information for our families. If we have a student who is sick or injured, it is crucial that we are able to contact their parent/guardian in a timely manner. Please make sure we have updated cell & home phone numbers for all parents, guardians, and emergency contacts. Also, please let us know if there has been a change in your household address. You can call the 4K office with any updates at 715.261.0265 or email your child's teacher.

Thank you for helping us keep our records as accurate as possible.





# TUCKER'S 4K SPOTLIGHT

WSD 4K ACADEMY

## GD Jones

1015 S. 12th Ave  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715.261.0265



Kara Rakowski  
4K Principal & EC Coordinator



Robin Franks  
GD Jones Principal



Jess Napiwocki  
4K & EC Administrative  
Assistant



Stacy Stenz  
Program Support Teacher



Melissa Willemon  
4K Teacher



Cha Yang  
4K Teacher



Michele Kettner  
4K Teacher



Andrea Frey  
4K Teacher



Cory Durbin  
EC Teacher



Lori Kurszewski  
EC Teacher



Anne Winter  
EC Teacher



Beth Van Dong  
Speech & Language



Jaci McKamey  
Speech & Language



Meghan O  
Speech & Language



Denise Wonsil-Michlig  
Speech & Language



Pa Thao  
4K Paraprofessional



Se Kathy Thao  
4K Paraprofessional



Chou Thao  
4K Paraprofessional



Becky Onesti  
4K Paraprofessional



Kelsey Malueg  
4K Paraprofessional



Ka Bao Mua  
4K Paraprofessional



Karyn Gelhaus  
4K Paraprofessional



Chou Thao  
4K Paraprofessional



# TUCKER'S 4K SPOTLIGHT



WSD 4K ACADEMY

## Hawthorn Hills

1600 Kickbusch St.  
Wausau, WI 54403  
715.261.0055



Kara Rakowski  
4K Principal & EC Coordinator



Lyzette Maroszek  
Hawthorn Principal



Kellie Messman  
4K Administrative Assistant



Lisa Dunahee  
4K Teacher



Marla Harris  
4K Teacher



Karyn Gelhaus  
4K Paraprofessional



Jaci McKamey  
Speech & Language



Denise Wonsil-Michlig  
Speech & Language



Julie Her  
4K Paraprofessional



Nhia Her  
4K Paraprofessional

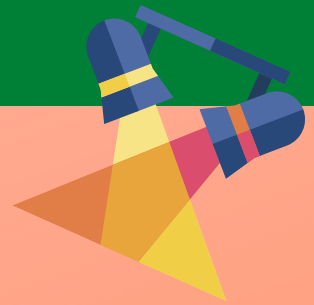


# TUCKER'S 4K SPOTLIGHT

WSD 4K ACADEMY

## Riverview

4303 Troy St.  
Wausau, WI 54403  
715.261.0040



Kara Rakowski  
4K Principal & EC Coordinator



Sara Budny  
Riverview Principal



Becky Olson  
Building Para



Kristin Hall  
4K Teacher



Danica Szekeress  
4K Teacher



Ashley Ermeling  
EC Teacher



Donna Husnick  
DHH/EC Teacher



Morgan Persha  
Speech & Language



Chong Chang  
4K Paraprofessional



Cher Her  
4K Paraprofessional



Tammy Davisson  
4K Paraprofessional



Darci Stai  
4K Paraprofessional



Cindy Schuster  
4K Paraprofessional



# TUCKER'S 4K SPOTLIGHT



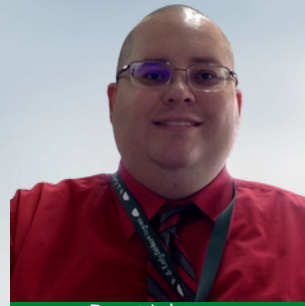
WSD 4K ACADEMY

## Thomas Jefferson

500 W. Randolph St.  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715.261.0185



Kara Rakowski  
4K Principal & EC Coordinator



Brent Johnson  
Jefferson Principal



Samantha Kniess  
ELL Teacher



Renee Krautkramer  
4K Teacher



BreAnne Wais  
4K Teacher



May Xiong  
4K Teacher



Amber Channel  
Building Aide



Hlee Chang  
4K Paraprofessional



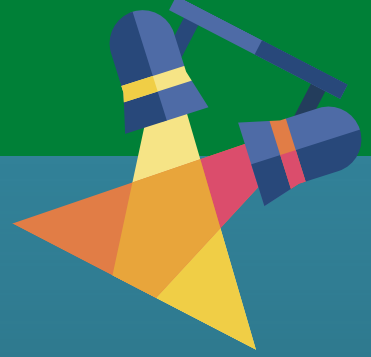
Pang Chang  
4K Paraprofessional



Indiana Barahona Palacios  
4K Paraprofessional



# TUCKER'S 4K SPOTLIGHT



WSD 4K COMMUNITY SITE

## MountainView Montessori

1500 Merrill Ave  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715.298.3832



Leah Bjerke  
Director & 4K Teacher

WSD 4K COMMUNITY SITE

## Wausau Child Care

505 N 28th Ave  
Wausau, WI 54401  
715.848.1437



Nicole Boyle  
4K Teacher

WSD 4K COMMUNITY SITE

## Newman - St. Michael

615 Stark St.  
Wausau, WI 54403  
715.848.0206



Alyssa Vandwekooy  
4K Teacher

WSD 4K COMMUNITY SITE

## The Woodson Y

707 3rd St.  
Wausau, WI 54403  
715.845.2177



Corina Ramos  
4K Teacher



Sandy Readenour  
4K Teacher



## The Rules Rap

Rap to the Rules in 4K!

The WSD 4K Programs are proud to announce that they have adopted a program-wide model known as the Teaching Pyramid for helping children learn social skills, friendship skills, and appropriate behavior. All of the program staff will be working together to teach your child to make good choices through the following behavior expectations (adapted from Sing along and Read Along with Dr. Jean, The Rules rap, 2007 Dr. Jean Feldman, Creative Teaching Press, Inc.).

Follow directions

- Feet and hands to yourself
- Small voices inside, tall voices outside
- Take care of your things
- Work together, be kind and respect each other

When you visit a 4K classroom, you will see the many ways that we will be helping your child learn and practice age-appropriate behavior and social skill expectations. We are excited about this effort and look forward to working with you and your child.

In addition, we will want to work in partnership with you to make sure children can learn to use these expectations at home and in school. You can effectively use the same rules at home. Each week your child's teacher will be sending you tips on how you can help your child learn these expectations and develop social skills and appropriate behavior.

Post the sheet on the refrigerator and use it as a reminder of ways to behave.



# The Rules



**Follow directions.**



**Feet and hands to yourself.**



**Take care of your things.**

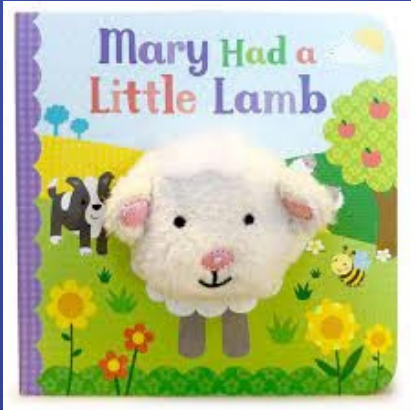


**Small voices inside,  
tall voices outside.**



**Work together,  
be kind, and respect  
each other.**

# TUCKER'S NURSERY RHYME CORNER



Mary had a little lamb.  
Its fleece was white as snow.  
and everywhere that Mary went  
the lamb was sure to go.  
It followed her to school one day,  
which was against the rule.  
It made the children laugh and play  
to see a lamb at school.

Star light,  
Star bright  
the first star I see tonight.  
I wish I may,  
I wish I might  
have this wish I wish tonight.

